



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW YORK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10278-0090

Planning Division

August 29, 2005

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

New York and New Jersey Harbor Deepening Project
Draft Limited Reevaluation Report and
Draft Environmental Assessment
for
Implementation of Mitigation in the State of New York

Dear Interested Party:

This is to inform you of the completion of the Draft Limited Reevaluation Report and Draft Environmental Assessment (LRR/DEA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the above referenced proposed Federal action, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CFR Parts 1500 – 1508). A copy of the LRR/DEA and its attachments are available for review at the Corps' website. To access the report, go to the Harbor Deepening Webpage <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/harbor/index.htm> and click on the "reports/publication" link. Hard copies of the report are available at the attached list of public libraries

Written comments are due (postmarked) by September 30, 2005 and should be sent to Ms. Weichenberg, Project Botanist at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 21st Floor, Room 2142, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278-0090.

Printed copies may be obtained by contacting Ms. Weichenberg at 917-790-8633. Please note, the review period will still end on September 30, 2005.

Sincerely,

Leonard Houston
Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch

Attachment

Executive Summary

Description:

This Limited Reevaluation Report was undertaken to identify an alternative site and plan for mitigation of impacts in New York State for the New York and New Jersey Harbor Deepening Project (HDP). The mitigation site recommended in prior reports, Old Place Creek on Staten Island, is no longer viable due to the strong likelihood of development on and adjacent to the site. This development would likely limit the effectiveness of any mitigation on the site.

The Report identifies the issues associated with the current mitigation site at Old Place Creek, analyzes potential sites for mitigation, and uses the screening criteria established for the original selection of mitigation for the HDP – including cost-effectiveness analysis – to identify the magnitude and characteristics of mitigation necessary at the selected site. The report then describes the selected mitigation plan.

The preferred replacement for the Old Place Creek mitigation site is Elder's Point Marsh Island in Jamaica Bay. The new mitigation plan includes the restoration of 29 acres of low marsh and enhancement of 11 acres of existing low marsh at Elder's Point East. This plan uses approximately 205,000 CY of sand in combination with geotextile tubes to contain the material, and provide a buffer for wave energy. This mitigation provides the necessary mitigation at the cost of \$7,391,600, which includes the costs for monitoring and adaptive management of the site. The change in mitigation sites from Old Place Creek to Elder's Point East represents no significant increase in project cost.

Project Summary:

| <u>Habitat Mitigation Acreages</u> | <u>Acres</u> |
|---|--------------|
| Elder's Point East Tidal Marsh: | 40.0 |
| Elder's Point East Mitigation Marsh Area – Restoration: | 29.0 |
| Elder's Point East Existing Marsh Area – Enhancement: | 11.0 |

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Total Volume Requirements: | 205,000 CY |
|----------------------------|------------|

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Elder's Point Mitigation Costs: | \$ 7,391,600 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|

Project Cost Change: No Significant Change (within established mitigation cost limits)

The results of this mitigation plan are expected to meet the New York State portion of the mitigation requirements for the HDP and are consistent with Federal, State, and local laws, and resource management plans. This plan has been supported by NYSDEC by letter dated July 25, 2005. The project sponsor, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, has also supported this plan by letter dated August 26, 2005. These letters are provided with the Pertinent Correspondence section of this Report.

Brooklyn Public Library
280 Cadman Plz W
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Brooklyn Public Library
1 Grand Army Plaza
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Mid-Manhattan Library
455 Fifth Avenue at 40th Street
New York, NY 10016

Donnell Library Center
20 West 53rd St
New York, NY 10019-6185

Lewis B and Dorothy Cullman Circulating Library and
Reading Room
188 Madison Ave
New York, NY 10016

Fordham Library Center
2556 Bainbridge Avenue
Bronx, NY 10458

St. George Library Center
5 Central Avenue
Richmond, NY 10301

Queens Central Library
89-11 Merrick Boulevard
Jamaica, NY 11432

Jamaica Bay Library
9727 Sea View Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11236

Queens Borough Public Library
1 Library Plz
Flushing, NY 11355

Queens Borough Public Library
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Flushing, NY 11385